

# The Spirit of Joy: A New Year's Message

A259 Sunday Address 3rd January 1954 St Mary Abbots Place, London New Year service

*Text:* from the version in *Stella Polaris*, December 1954. There is no manuscript version known. This printed version has been given section headings, which are undoubtedly editorial, and a certain amount of editing of the whole must be assumed. The title comes from the printed text.

*Context:* new year service in the London Lodge; the ascription of this address to 1954 is based only on the common practice by this time, to print addresses at the same point of the year, twelve months (roughly) after they were given.

*General notes:* although a new year address, once the initial sentiments are complete White Eagle's message is a very general statement, which the interpolated headings largely summarise – until the new year theme returns at the end. White Eagle speaks of the omnipresence of God, including presence in the earth – a presence he would generally describe as being that of Divine Mother, though the Father and Mother are not here separated. The overall theme is human evolution, particularly spiritual evolution. White Eagle speaks of events about to come which will bring a major spiritual awakening for humanity, but it is not obvious to what he refers. There may or may not be a connection with what White Eagle goes on to say about other planets being inhabited, and human form or something very similar being universal. He prophesies extra-terrestrial visitors to earth. The section with the title 'The Closed Mind' is important not only for giving a prescription for intellectual health, but for the picture it gives of a perfected human being. There is further teaching about the mind and its closeness to the fear body in the very final section.

*References:* 'Lift up your hearts!', the instruction of the penultimate section, refers back to the hymn of that name by H. Montagu Butler. Wikipedia adds, 'The words echo the English translation of the *Sursum corda*, a part of the communion liturgy in Christian churches'.

## White Eagle's Address:

When each New Year comes, we believe it customary for you to wish your friends all that they would wish for themselves. You could, notwithstanding, change that wish for the better by saying, *I wish you what God wills for your happiness* – always remembering that your friend's ultimate happiness and perfection is God's will for him. This is why your own soul and body were in the first place entrusted to you; for you, being essentially a spiritual being, are a part of the divine Spirit, a part of the universal Mind, the universal Spirit. You are part of all living creatures, part of every form of life; yes, because even matter is fundamentally spiritual – in matter is also spirit. All form, whatever its nature, upon whatever vibration it is working, is spirit; and if earthly people could only get this deeply rooted in their consciousness, they would find the secret of happiness. Instead, life often seems hard and confusing. Even our own simple teaching seems difficult at times, and we will tell you the reason. It is because, when man is functioning only in his physical body and his physical brain, he is shutting himself off from the spiritual life which alone can bring understanding and intelligence to his soul.

You are here on earth first of all to discipline your outer life, and by this means to become a master of your body and your soul. We are now speaking from spiritual life to you who are a spirit. When once you can make contact with the Source of your life, with your Creator, with God, the Father–Mother and the Son, Christ, you will be raised above confusion. You will rise above the mists, much as a man in an aeroplane soars through the clouds into clear sunshine. This is what every man can learn to do and will indeed accomplish during his journey through matter. When man has once controlled physical matter, he will afterwards

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discipline and control soul-matter.

Some people reject reincarnation because they have received no proof, and their minds shrink from the idea of coming back again to physical life. Well, what they think is of small moment. Whether people believe or not does not alter these basic and universal truths.

## THE EVOLVING SOUL

Now, man can only attain to spiritual or Christ-consciousness through the lessons he is forced to learn during his several lives spent on the earth, and principally through the practice of meditation on God, through aspiration towards God. The evolving soul has a continual longing for God, above and before everything else. It must continually seek to know more about the love of God and His wisdom; it must learn to recognise and to depend on the strength of God. Remember that while God is above in the heavens, He is also beneath, infusing the earth from which all things grow to Himself; He is also all around you. He is very close indeed to you externally, and He also dwells deep in your heart. This God within will give you aspiration to rise, to search for the Light; and, when your soul once sees the Light, to follow it without flinching or faltering. Keep your vision clear. Do not be deflected by the clamour and confusions which overrule earthly things, or with the disagreements between man and man. Keep strong in faith, and your faith will bring knowledge of all truth. We say to you again, that the sure and only way to continual happiness is the way to God. God alone can give you happiness that is strong, sure and enduring. While it is true that during your span of years on earth you will be confronted with many a difficulty, remember also that everything you will encounter will be something that you, yourself, attracted to you. God does not visit you with your various sorrows and troubles. You think differently? But no; the soul itself attracts these things towards itself, for something in the soul is like a magnet which draws to itself physical, material and emotional conditions which may bring sometimes pain and suffering, sometimes joy and peace.

## AS A MAN IS, AND THINKS, SO HE ACTS

In the East, the various religions assert that as a man *is*, as a man *thinks*, so will that man act; if unkindly, he will in turn acquire certain debts which eventually will have to be paid. Let us remember that this again illustrates a cosmic law of life; it means that man is not only making karma to be someday faced – possibly in a future incarnation – but that every day of his life, his every trivial thought, word and act, are making their impression on the ether, and causing him to draw towards himself the very conditions which he himself formerly induced. In spite of this law, we say to you: do not go about continually anticipating the worst. God does not visit pain and suffering on any of His children. He wants you to realise and surround yourselves with the joys of life and glimpse the glory of the spirit. So we would bid you expect the best, always look for the best, always anticipate the best; and if anything comes your way which you dislike, nevertheless be thankful. You have drawn these things to yourself for a purpose, because your spirit is very much wiser, purer, higher than your body or mind, or even your soul. It has a deeper, clearer vision than has your earthly consciousness; and it hearkens to the soul because that soul is unwittingly crying out for light. The only way for it to obtain that light is by itself undergoing the experiences which it has attracted to itself.

Many of you – indeed, all of you, we are sure – have known periods of trial and tribulation

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which have been very painful. You have been tested on occasion to the last degree; and have watched your loved ones undergoing similar tests and trials, and have been unable to help. Sometimes you have almost lost your faith in God. But after a while, when the worst is over, and when subsequent good karma restores your happiness, and agreeable things begin to come your way, you look around, you reflect and sometimes declare, 'Thank God that things did not happen as I wanted them to happen! His way was far better than mine. God is good; now I see the reason for such and such a thing.'

## TRUTH IS THE BREAD OF LIFE

This is truth; this is food of the inner spirit, this is the bread of life that we are giving. Only surrender your self-will to the will of God. Only rise above the shadows and the soreness, the troubles and the inconveniences of the earthly life. They are unimportant, and being transient will pass, and indeed everything bad passes. Time is the Great Healer. No trouble lasts for ever, but fades away into the background and there dies; but your spiritual progress always endures and is with you for eternity.

A word about happenings in the outer world; shun that unwise habit of thinking that everything is getting worse, so that all is lost; for you never made a bigger mistake. We can assure you that the world is making marked progress; that wonderful happenings are in course of preparation; that the divine light is already penetrating the mists of confusion within man's mortal mind and overwrought emotions; that divine light is indeed reaching the hearts of men and women. All conditions on your earth are leading up to man's more perfect life. You will see in the next few years astounding revelations, not only spiritual but with accompanying physical developments. You will see the spirit of man awakening. You will see greater interest in all psychic and spiritual life. True, everything may not work out exactly as your mortal mind may anticipate but let us all take the broad view, the long view. This is always needed when looking out on worldly things. Behind that which seems to be discord, greed and earthiness, the spirit of God is ever active, bringing order out of chaos, bringing illumination to man and so opening his spirit to the sunshine of Christ. Do not look back dolefully; look forward with happy anticipation; expect the unfolding of the bud of man's divine spirit. The whole earth is rising, is becoming lighter.

## THE CLOSED MIND

A closed mind is one of the worst things that can happen to a man; therefore all of you in this circle of our friends must ever keep open to truth and to any changes and any new revelations which may come your way. We assure you that man is destined to live not only on this earth but on other planets in your solar system, which is only one of countless similar systems. But the *form* of man is the same universally; the upright form of man who stands on his two feet with head erect, looking upward to God with his arms outstretched to bless, represents the perfect form of the son or daughter of God.

Are other planets inhabited? And if they are, are the forms of the inhabitants thereof similar to men? Yes, human form is the same universally. Man is created by God in the image of God; and within man is the seed of the Christ Son. Therefore his life, first in heavy matter and later in finer matter, is planned by God for the purpose of developing his consciousness and awareness of Christ and the Christ Life – together with his knowledge of the finer and even finer ethers that surround this planet and extend into outer space.

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Visitors to this earth will come from other planets. There is no question about this. They will come when man is ready to receive such guests without suspicion; when he understands the meaning of the brotherhood of all life and how to hold communion with his brethren from outer space. You will see our words come true.

## LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS!

And now, my children, lift up your hearts. Do not allow the mortal mind to rob you of the sweet breath of the heavenly flowers. You have no need to die, to pass out of the body, to catch a glimpse of the heavenly glory. That is an experience waiting for man while still in the flesh. Did not the Master Jesus reveal the heavenly glory at the moment of his transfiguration? He was then in communion with his Father and the heavenly companions whom he knew so well. The light both shone upon him and shone out from him. Here is a demonstration, if you are an orthodox Christian, of that holy and perfect life existing in the higher ethers. God has never left man without a witness. God, in His mercy, in His goodness, continually sends His messengers. They work through man, sometimes unconsciously – that is to say, men are often unconscious that they are being used in this manner. God can use you too, although you may not know it. Always the test of the rightness of your service is love, pure love. You must feel such a love in you for everything: for everything you must have love!

You will say, 'Surely, you do not mean us to love evil things and evil doers?' We answer that you must come to see evil in its right and true perspective as a form of undeveloped life. You must have pity for all suffering: and in all circumstances you must resort to God and feel the love of His Son rising up, causing you to love your fellow man, and your own life and all that happens in it.

## THE NEW WORLD

This is our New Year message particularly to you: God is watching over you and all your world. God loves you; God is wanting and waiting to gather you into His heart. God's heart holds nothing but goodness, light and love, and therein you will find perfect happiness. With love there can be no separation. Death cannot separate, death does not rob you of your loved ones. Only this mind of earth can isolate you, as indeed it is continually doing without the aid of death; for condemnation, criticism, unkindness in any form can immediately sever you from your friends. Death in reality is not the greatest enemy to man; rather, death is man's friend, at last bringing understanding to the soul. So, with peace in your heart, and your vision ever on the divine light and those heavenly worlds which are watching over you, go forward into the light and meet your happiness. Indeed God blesses you, every one!

*The search matches with either words and phrases, which appear in the text, or the following 'key' words and phrases, which are similar in meaning to those in the document:*

*life after death, eternal life, path of the soul, cause and effect, God's path, fate, predestination, light within, inner light, spiritual contact, spiritual unfoldment, enlightenment, evolution, aliens, extra-terrestrials*